

Program Endorsement

United States Senate (July 23, 1998)

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 23, 1998

The Honorable John W. Warner
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Carl Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Warner and Ranking Member Levin:

As you work on the final version of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 Department of Defense Authorization bill, we are writing to urge your support of the House-passed funding level for the Navy Manufacturing Technology (MANTECH) Program. MANTECH is being implemented at several Centers of Excellence around the nation. Indeed, the Navy Joining Center is operated by the Edison Welding Institute in Ohio.

The record indicates that the Navy Joining Center has consistently developed affordable approaches to meet the Navy's identified joining requirements, resulting in considerable cost savings to the taxpayer. These savings are achieved in both initial production and reduced maintenance cost.

As you well know, the Senate bill provided \$89 million for the MANTECH program. We urge your support for the \$74 million as recommended by the House. With this \$15 million increase above the President's budget, we can provide sufficient funding to allow more joining projects to be started in FY 2000. These important projects have been put on hold for too long.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information.

Very respectfully yours,



George V. Voinovich
United States Senator



Mike DeWine
United States Senator